

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05613 270907Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 NSC-07

SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00

DRC-01 L-03 /067 W

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O 270740Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1581

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJAPAN FUCHU JAPAN

COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JAPAN

CONCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5613

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJ: PS MOVE TO MISAWA

REF: A. STATE 085917

B. CINCPAC 270122Z APR 74

1. I DO NOT AGREE WITH THE APPROACH RECOMMENDED IN REF B.
THE RECORD OF OUR DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT LEAVES NO ROOM
FOR DOUBT THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO POSE STRONG
OBJECTIONS TO THE MOVE OF ONE-THIRD P-3 SQUADRON FROM IWAKUNI
TO MISAWA BY MAY 1. THESE OBJECTIONS REFLECT THE CONSIDERED
JUDGEMENT OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND DFAA THAT ADVERSE POLITICAL
REACTIONS TO SUCH A MOVE PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF GOJ EFFORTS
TO WIN SUPPORT OR ACQUESCENCE OF LOCAL LEADERS WOULD BE PRE-
JUDICIAL TO OUR LONG-TERM INTERESTS AND, MOST PARTICULARLY,
TO THE EVENTUAL RELOCATION OF THE P-3 SQUADRON UNDER JFAP.
EMBASSY AGREES WITH THIS JUDGMENT.

2. THIS SITUATION WILL NOT, IN MY JUDGMENT, BE ALTERED EITHER
BY OUR NOW RAISING PROBLEM POSED BY UPGRADING RUNWAY REPAIRS
AT IWAKUNI, WHICH HAS NOT BEFORE BEEN BROUGHT TO ATTENTION
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 05613 270907Z

OF FOREIGN OFFICE (AND WHICH, IN FACT, THE USN HAS NOT BEFORE

CITED TO THE EMBASSY AS AN OPERATIONAL PROBLEM) NO BY CINCPAC'S PROPOSAL TO STAGGER THE P-3 ARRIVALS. IT SEEMS TO ME, THEREFORE, DISENGENIOUS AND CONTRARY TO OUR BEST INTERESTS TO PRESS FIRST, AS CINCPAC RECOMMENDS, FOR THE MOVEMENT BY MAY 1 OF THE P-3'S TO MISAWA AS A FULL-TIME BASIS. MOREOVER, TO PRESS SUCH A PROPOSITION MIGHT WELL PREJUDICE THE CHANCES FOR A FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO THE FU PULL-BACK POSITION RECOMMENDED BY CINCPAC IN REF B.

3. IF THE FACT THERE IS NO WORKABLE, ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WHICH THE USN NOW HAS RAISED (E.G., BY POST-PONING THE RUNWAY REPAIR AT IWAKUNI (WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS MARINE IN-HOUSE PROJECT NOT INVOLVING CONTRACTORS), USING THE TAXIWAYS, OPERATING THE P-3'S TEMPORARILY OUT OF ATSUGI OR YOKOTA), THUS I RECOMMEND THAT THE EMBASSY PLACE BEFORE THE FOREIGN OFFICE OUR PROPOSAL TO OPERATE THE P-3'S FROM MISAWA ON WEEKENDS ONLY WHEN THE IWAKUNI RUNWAY IS CLOSED AND UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY CAN BE MOVED TO MISAWA ON A FULL-TIME BASIS. ALTHOUGH I CANNOT OF COURSE GUARANTEE SUCCESS IN OVER-COMING FOREIGN OFFICE RESISTENCE, THE EMBASSY CAN, AND WILL, MAKE THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE CASE IN SUPPORT OF THIS PROPOSAL.

4. IN PRESENTING THIS PROPOSAL TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE I AM PREPARED ALSO TO MAKE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS THAT WE MUST BE ABLE TO OPERATE THE P-3 DETACHMENT OUT OF MISAWA ON A FULL-TIME BASIS NO LATER THAN JUNE 20. I BELIEVE THIS TO BE AN ENTIRELY REASONABLE PROPOSOSITION, NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF OUR OWN OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AS PREVIOUSLY EXPLAINED TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE, BUT IN TERMS OF THE STEPS WHICH THE FOREIGN OFFICE ITSELF HAS ARGUED SHOULD BE TAKEN TO RESOLVE THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THIS ISSUE. IN ADDITION, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO RESIST AN ATTEMPT BY ANYONE TO MAKE AGREEMENT TO COMMERCIAL USE OF MISAWA AND/OR RELEASE OR JOINT USE OF A PORTION OF THE BASE A PRECONDITION FOR MOVEMENT OF THE DETACHMENT. INCIDENTALLY, FONOFF HAS NOT YET MADE ANY SUCH ATTEMPT. I RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT THE EMBASSY DISCUSS SUCH PROPOSALS IF THEY ARE RAISED FORMALLY BY GOJ AS MATTERS WHICH WOULD ASSIST SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. WE ALREADY HAVE INDICATED TO FONOFF THAT PROPER

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 05613 270907Z

FORUM IN FIRST INSTANCE WOULD BE JOINT COMMITTEE.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

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